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Accidents Involving Eye Injuries

ORIGINA

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Report 597

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Ray Marshall, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS Janet L. Norwood, Commissioner

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Preface

This report is one of four which summarizes the results of surveys of injured workers conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) during 1979. Other reports in the series cover injuries to the foot, head, and face. The findings will assist the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in developing safety standards, compliance strategy, and training programs relating to the use of personal protective equipment for reducing work-related injuries.

The survey was conducted by the Bureau's Office of Occupational Safety and Health Statistics, Theodore J. Golonka, Assistant Commissioner, in cooperation with the following States: California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. BLS regional offices coordinated State operations. The Offices of Compliance, Standards Development, Statistical Studies and Analysis and Training of OSHA and the Office of Safety Research of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health contributed to the planning and development of the survey. The report was prepared by Luther Clark, Helen McDonald, Lyn Pearson and Debera Solis under the direction of Herbert Schaffer.

The user should exercise caution in extrapolating survey data to population estimates because of limitations of the survey design. States participating in data collection may not represent the country as a whole; reporting requirements for workers' compensation reports, which are the source for selecting injuries for study, vary among States; and the two-month collection period is not intended to represent the entire year. However, data represent injured workers in the States surveyed during the period studied and are, therefore, valid for identifying injury patterns on a relative basis. For analytical purposes, the incidence of eye injuries for workers wearing or not wearing protective equipment cannot be generated or inferred from the data because exposure data are not currently available.

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Summary of Survey Results

A survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of workers in selected occupations who suffered impact injuries or chemical burns to the eye showed that almost 3 out of 5 were not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident. 1/ The typical eye injury was caused by flying particles resulting in relatively minor injuries, such as scratches, to the eye. Most workers were injured while performing their normal job activities at their worksites.

Of the occupations studied, craft workers (mechanics and repairers, etc.) accounted for 42 percent of the injured workers; operatives, 36 percent; and laborers, 21 percent. Almost 50 percent of the workers were employed in manufacturing and slightly more than 20 percent were in construction.

Of the 1,052 eye accidents studied, nearly seven-tenths resulted from flying or falling objects striking the eye. The injured workers estimated that nearly three-fifths of the objects were no more than one-half of a millimeter in diameter, which is smaller than a pin head; almost one fifth of the objects were about twice that size, one millimeter in diameter. 2/ Two-thirds of the objects were estimated to be traveling at a speed faster than a hand-thrown object when the accident occurred.

Contact with chemicals caused one-fifth of the injuries. Most of the remaining accidents were attributed to objects swinging from a fixed or attached position, such as tree limbs, ropes, chains, etc., or objects, usually tools, which were pulled into the eye while the worker was using them.

About 40 percent of the injured workers were wearing some form of eye protection at the time of the accident. 3/ Eyeglasses with no side shields were the most prevalent type reported, worn by 42 percent of these workers. Workers wearing glasses with full-cup or flat-fold side shields accounted for 22 and 13 percent, respectively, of those

^{1/} For a description of the survey scope and methods, see appendix A.

^{2/} For a visual approximation of the size of the objects, see appendix A.

^{3/} See questionnaire in appendix C for pictures of protective eye equipment.

wearing eye protection. More than seventy percent of the workers believed that they were wearing industrial safety glasses. 4/ When queried for verification, 38 percent reported no special markings on the lens and 44 percent didn't know whether the lens was labeled.

Nearly 20 percent of the workers with eye protection wore face shields or welding helmets. On the other hand, only 6 percent of the workers who were injured and using some type of eye protection wore goggles, which generally offer tighter fit around the eyes than those already noted.

All but 6 percent of the injuries to those wearing eye protection resulted from objects (or caustics) going around or under the protection. Only 13 workers injured while wearing eye protection reported breakage. These cases usually resulted in injuries inflicted, at least in part, by shattered lenses or frames. In addition, four workers were injured when the frames of their glasses were pushed into the eye area.

More than 50 percent of those injured while wearing eye protection were of the opinion that the protection had minimized their injuries, mostly because of exposure to numerous flying particles. On the other hand, nearly 50 percent of the workers also felt that another type of protection could have prevented or reduced the injuries received. The 5 percent who indicated that their protection contributed to the injury usually experienced lens or frame breakage, although a few noted that the object rebounded off the interior surface of the lens.

When asked to explain why they were not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident, the unprotected workers most frequently indicated that eye protection was not normally used or practical in their type of work, or they felt it was not needed for the task being performed. Six percent had removed their eye protection before the accident.

Company policy requiring eye protection for certain types of work or at specific job locations was reported by two-thirds of the workers surveyed; more than one-fifth of these indicated that the policy was implemented after the accident occurred. Almost four-fifths of the employers provided eye protection at no cost. Three-fifths of the workers had received information, usually from their employers, concerning eye protection, such as where and what kind to wear.

 $[\]underline{4}$ Industrial safety glasses are designed for high impact resistance designated by a special label on the lens.

Table 1. Eye injuries by industry division, selected States, July-August 1979

Industry division	A11 w	orkers	Workers w prote	earing eye ction
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,052	100	435	100
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	32	3	3	1
Mining 1/	8	1 1	6	1 .1
Construction	228	22	69	16
Manufacturing	506 32	48	283	65
Transportation and public utilities	65	1 2	1 17	1 6
Retail trade	72	1 7	16	1 2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	7	l i	-	1 -
Services	91	i 9	i 30	1 7
Public sector	9	l i	l i	(2)
Industry unspecified	2	(2)	l i	(2)

^{1/} Limited to oil and gas extraction.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey.

SOURCE: State workers' compensation reports.

Table 2. Eye injuries by nature of injury, selected States, July-August 1979

Nature of injury	A11 w	orkers	Workers wearing eye protection		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	1,052	100	435	100	
Amputation or enucleation	212	(1)	57	(1)	
Contusion, crushing, bruise	37	4	4	1 .1	
Cut, laceration, puncture	192 558	18	80	18	
Multiple injuries	5	(1)	1 1	(1)	
Eye, other diseases of the eye	3	(1)	l i	(1)	
Nonclassifiable	41	4	10	2	

^{1/} Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey.

SOURCE: State workers' compensation reports.

^{2/} Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 3. Eye injuries by source of injury, selected States, July-August 1979

Source of injury	All w	orkers	Workers w prote	
Source of Injury	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,052	100	435	100
nimal products	3	(1)	1	(1)
odily motion	1	(1)	_	
oilers, pressure vessels		1 (1)	2	(1)
uildings and structures	5	(1)	-	-
eramic items	186	(1)	52	12
hemicals, chemical compounds	100	10	32	12
unspecified	10	1	-	-
Acids	50	5	19	4
AlcoholsAlkalies	21	(1)	4	1
Aromatic compounds	1	(1)	i	(1)
Halogenated compounds, not elsewhere		١.	! .	
Classified	12	1	6	1
classified	1	(1)	1	(1)
Oxides of nitrogen	2	(1)	-	-
Chemicals and compounds, not elsewhere classified	86	8	21	5
lothing	2	(1)	1 1	(1)
oal and petroleum products	16	2	6	1
lectric apparatus	1	(1)		-
ood products	2	1 (1)	-	_
lass items, not elsewhere classified	17	2	8	2
and tools, not powered	23	2	4 3	1
and tools, powered	6	1	3	1
elsewhere classified	1	(1)	- 1	-
nfectious, parasitic agents, not elsewhere				
classified	6	(1)	1 1	(1)
chines	5	(1)	3	í
chanical power transmission apparatus	3	(1)	1	(1)
Motal items	552 94	52	299	69
Metal items, unspecified	2	(1)	1 1	(1)
Beams, bars	3	(1)	-	-
Molds	1	(1)	1 1	(1)
Molten metal	23	(1)	2 2	(1)
Pipe	3	(1)	ī	(1)
Screws, nuts, bolts	4	(1)	2	(1)
Metal items, not elsewhere classified	419	40	233	54
classified	1	(1)	1	(1)
neral items, nonmetallic, not elsewhere				
classified	37	(1)	9	2
orticles (unidentified)	12	1 1	9	2
lants, trees, vegetation	22	2	i źi	(1)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Eye injuries by source of injury, selected States, July-August 1979 - Continued

Source of injury	A11 6	orkers	Workers wearing ey protection			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Plastic items, not elsewhere classified	16	2	5	1		
Soaps, detergents, etc., not elsewhere classified	12	(1)	1	(1)		
Scrap, debris, waste materials, not elsewhere classified	7	",	2	(1)		
Textile items, not elsewhere classified	i	(1)	1 -	-		
Vehicles	74	(1)	1 14	(1)		
Wood items, unspecified	7	l i	1	-		
Lumber	65	(1)	14	3		
Rubber products	2	(1)	1	1		
Miscellaneous, not elsewhere classified	25	2	, ,	2		

^{1/} Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey.

SOURCE: State workers' compensation reports.

Table 4. Eye injuries by age of workers, selected States, July-August 1979

Age	A11 w	orkers	Workers wearing e		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	1,052	100	435	100	
5 years or less	. 8	1	1	(1)	
6 - 19 years	132	13 28 29 14	46	1 11	
20 - 24 years	292	28	107	25	
25 - 34 years	309	29	138	32	
55 - 44 years	152	1 14	70	11 25 32 16	
5 - 54 years	70	1 7	31	7	
5 - 64 years	46	1 4	70 31 28	1 6	
5 years or more	3	(1)	1 2	(1)	
ot available	40	4	1 12	3	

^{1/} Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey.

SOURCE: State workers' compensation reports.

Table 5. Eye injuries by sex of workers, selected States, July-August 1979

Sex	A11 6	orkers	Workers wearing eye protection		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	1,052	100	435	100	
Men	972 80	92 8	405 30	93 7	

NOTE: See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey.

SOURCE: State workers' compensation reports.

Table 6. Eye injuries by selected occupations, selected States, July-August 1979

Occupation	A11 w	orkers	Workers w	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,052	100	435	100
Clerical and kindred workers	10	1	6	1
Shipping, receiving clerks Stock clerks and storekeepers	5	(1)	4 2	cı1
Craft and kindred workers	439	42	171	39
Automobile accessories installers	1	(1)	1	1 -
Bakers	1 1	(1)	! :	! -
Boilermakers	, 6	1 1	5	1 .1
Brickmasons and stonemasons Brickmason and stonemason apprentices	11	(1)	1	(1)
Bulldozer operators	2	(1)	-	_
Cabinetmakers	l ī	(1)	-	i -
Carpenters	47	4	10	2
Carpenter apprentices	4	(1)	1	(1)
Carpet installers	2 3	(1)	1 -	1
Cement and concrete finishers	1 1	(1)	2	(1)
Electricians	1 14	l 'i	3	l 'i
Electrician apprentices	1 4	(1)	-	-
Electric power line and cable			i	İ
installers and repairers	. 2	(1)	1	(1)
Excavating, grading, and road machine			!	!
operators, excluding bulldozers	. 8	1	-	-
Blue-collar worker supervisors, not elsewhere classified	25	2	9	2
Forge and hammer operators	l i	(1)	l í	(1)
Glaziers	1 2	(1)	-	-
Heat treaters, annealers, temperers	1	(1)	1	(1)
Inspectors, sealers, and graders, log				
and lumber	1 .1	(1)	1 1	(1)
Machinists Machinist apprentices	34	(1)	25	6
Mechanics and repairers	151	14	55	13
Air conditioning, heating and		1	"	1
refrigeration	1	(1)	1	(1)
Aircraft mechanics	2	(1)	1 .:	! :
Automotive body repairers	16	2 5	12	3
Automobile mechanics	52	(1)	13	3
Farm implement mechanics	12	l ''í	2	(1)
Heavy equipment mechanics	29	1 3	12	3
Household appliance and accessory			1	1
installers and mechanics	3	(1)	-	-
Mechanic apprentices, excluding			1	!
Miscellaneous mechanics and	2	(1)	-	-
repairers	19	2		2
Mechanics and repairers, not	1,	١ ،	,	i *
specified	13	1	6	j 1
Millwrights	11	1	5	1
Molders, metal	2	(1)	1 1	(1)
Molder apprentices	1	(1)	1 1	(1)
Painters, construction and maintenance		1	2	(1)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Eye injuries by selected occupations, selected States, July-August 1979 - Continued

Occupation	All w	orkers	Workers w	
occupat Fon	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
raft and kindred workers - Continued			İ	
Pattern and model makers, excluding		l .	1	
paper	1	(1)	1	(1)
Plasterers	2	(1)	1	(1)
Plumbers and pipefitters	23	2	10	2
Plumber and pipefitter apprentices	1	(1)	1 1	(1)
Printing press operators	i	(1)	l i	(1)
Roofers and slaters	3	(1)	:	1
Sheetmetal workers and tinsmiths	24	2	16	4
Sheetmetal apprenticas	1	(1)	1	(1)
Stationary engineers	.4	(1)	2	(1)
Structural metal workers	10	1 ,,1	4	1
Telephone installers and repairers Telephone line installers and	2	(1)	-	-
repairers	1	(1)		-
Tile setters	î	(1)	-	-
Tool and die makers	5	(1)	4	1
Tool and die maker apprentices	2	(1)	2	(1)
Specified craft apprentices, not	_			
elsewhere classified	2	(1)	-	-
Apprentices, not specified	1	(1)	-	-
Craft and kindred workers, not elsewhere classified	5	(1)	2	(1)
ersewhere crassified	,	1 '1'	-	1 11/
peratives, excluding transport	375	36	202	46
Asbestos and insulation workers	3	(1)	1	(1)
Assemblers	40		15	3
Bottling and canning operatives Checkers, examiners, inspectors;	3	(1)	1	(1)
manufacturing	2	(1)	1	(1)
Cutting operatives, not elsewhere		` ` ` `		```
classified	4	(1)	3	1
Drillers, earth	5	(1)	-	-
Drywall installers and lathers	2	(1)	· -	-
Filers, polishers, sanders, buffers	12	1	10	2
Furnace tenders, smelters, and	4	(1)	3	٠,
Garage workers and gas station	•	(1)	, ,	
attendants	9	1	-	-
Heaters, metal	í	(1)	-	-
Laundry and dry cleaning operatives,				
not elsewhere classified	2	(1)	-	-
Meat cutters and butchers, excluding				
menufacturing	1	(1)	-	-
Meat cutters and butchers,	6	,	_	_
Metal platers	3	(1)	_	_
Mine operatives, not elsewhere	,	1		
classified	3	(1)	3	1
Mixing operatives	3	(1)	-	-
Oilers and greasers, excluding auto	1	(1)	-	
Packers and wrappers, excluding retail.	5	(1)	2	(1)
Painters, manufactured articles	3	(1)	2	(1)
Drill press operatives	37	(1)	35	1
or mainy machine operatives	3/	,	33	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Eye injuries by selected occupations, selected States, July-August 1979 - Continued

Occupation	A11 ы	orkers		dorkers wearing eye protection		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
operatives, excluding transport - Continued				! .		
Lathe and milling machine operatives	6	1 1	! 4	1		
Precision machine operatives, not						
elsewhere classified	1	(1)	1	(1)		
Punch and stamping press operatives	3	(1)	3	1 ,1		
Riveters and fasteners	, 1	(1)	1	(1)		
Sauyers	15	1	6	1 ,1		
Sowers and stitchers	5	(1)	1	(1)		
Shoemaking machine operatives	66	1 6	46	11		
Winding operatives, no elsewhere	6 4		1 40	1 11		
classified	1	(1)	1 1	(1)		
Machine operatives, miscellaneous		1		1 11/		
specified	58	6	25	6		
Machine operatives, not specified	15	i i	1 8	2		
Miscellaneous operatives	37	1 4	16	1 4		
Operatives, not specified	15	i i	1 11	1 3		
aborers, excluding farm	199	1 19	50	111		
Animal caretakers, excluding farm	2	(1)	1 1	(1)		
Carpenter helpers	4	1 (1)	1 :	1		
Construction laborers, excluding	,	1 '''		i		
carpenter helpers	50	5	7	2		
Freight, material handlers	11	i i	7	i ž		
Garbage collectors	3	(1)	į ž	(1)		
Gardeners and groundskeepers,		1	1	1		
excluding farm	18	j 2	1 1	(1)		
Timber cutting and logging workers	8	ī	-	-		
Stock handlers	5	(1)	j 1	(1)		
Vehicle and equipment cleaners	8	1	1 -	-		
Warehouse laborers, not elsewhere		1	İ	i		
classified	10	1	1	(1)		
Miscellaneous laborers	40	1 5	1 13	1 3		
Laborers, not specified	40	4	1 17	4		
arm laborers and farm laborer supervisors	22	2	2	(1)		
Farm laborer supervisors	ī	(1)	-	1		
Farm laborers, wage workers	21	2	2	(1)		
ionclassifiable	7	1 1	1 4	1		

^{1/} Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey.

SOURCE: State workers' compensation reports.

Table 7. Eye injuries by type of accident, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	A11 w	orkers		earing eye
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
How did the accident occur?				
Total	1,052	100	435	100
Flying or falling object struck you Struck non-moving object Liquid or chemical injured you Occurred in another way	727 21 216 88	69 2 21 8	355 5 59 16	82 1 14 4

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

Table 8. Eye injuries by characteristics of flying or falling objects, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	All w	orkers	Workers w prote	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
If a flying or falling object struck you:				
 Estimate the object's size by selecting the circle which is the smallest open- ing that the object would fit through. 				
Total	721	100	352	100
Approximate circle diameter 1/				
0.5 millimeters. 1.0 millimeter. 1.5 millimeters. 3.0 millimeters. 6.0 millimeters. 12.0 millimeters. 24.0 millimeters. Greater than 24 millimeters. Don't know.	417 131 40 25 27 25 15 18 23	58 18 6 3 4 3 2 2	241 70 11 6 6 4 3 4 7	68 20 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 2
b. How would you describe the speed of the object?				
Total	719	100	353	100
High speed: For example, much faster than an object thrown by person Low speed: For example, close to or	473	66	252	71
slower than speed of object thrown by person	126 120	18 17	44 57	12 16
c. What was the object's weight?				
Total	722	100	353	100
Less than the weight of quarter (1/5 ounce)	653	90	339	96
than 1 ounce	13 10 13	2 1 2 (2)	1 2 1	(2)
1 to 4 pounds	2	-		-
8 to 15 pounds	1 5 25	1 3	2 8	1 2

^{1/} See appendix A for a picture of the actual circles used in the questionnaire.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

^{2/} Value is less than 0.5 percent.

Table 9. Eye injuries by type of eye protection, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	Number	Percent
Indicate what type of eye or face protection, if any, you were wearing when the accident occurred. 1/		
Total	1,048	100
Not wearing any eye or face protection Glasses - no side shields Glasses - full-cup side shields Glasses - flat-fold side shields Welding goggles Soft-side goggles Cup type goggles Face shield Welding heimet	181 94 57 2 21 3 68	58 17 9 5 (2) 2 (2) 6
of you were wearing glasses:		
. What kind were they?	İ	į
Total	347	100
Industrial safety glasses Regular glasses Don't know	250 90 7	72 26 2
Did the glasses have any special marking on the lens such as manu- facturing trademark, etc.?		
Total	330	100
No Yes Don't know	125 61 144	38 18 44

^{1/} If more than one type of eye protection was worn, only the outermost protection is described. Forty-two respondents wore more than one type of eye protection, most frequently face shields with glasses.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey and appendix C for pictures of protective eye equipment. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

^{2/} Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 10. Eye injuries: Workers wearing eye protection, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	Number	Percent
Indicate why your eye or face protection did not prevent injury.		
Total <u>1</u> /	401	(1)
Object (or chemical) went around or under protection	376 4 7 4 4 16 28	94 1 2 1 1 1 7
o you feel another type of eye or face protection would have prevented or educed your injury?		
Total	382	100
NoYes Yes Don't know	106 188 88	28 49 23
That effect do you feel your eye or face protection had on your injury?		
Total	380	100
Reduced injury Contributed to injury No effect Don't know	213 19 100 48	56 5 26 13

^{1/} Because more than one response is possible, the sum of the responses and percentages may not equal the total. Percentages are calculated by dividing each response by the total number of persons who answered the question.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

Table 11. Eye injuries: Workers not wearing eye protection, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	Number	Percent
If you were not wearing glasses or goggles, indicate why.		
Total <u>1</u> /	612	(1)
Eye or face protection had been lifted up		
or was not in place	37 136	6
None available at worksite	136	22
Did not think they were needed	224	
Not required	178	29
Not normally used or practical in my type		
of work	227	37
Can't see well with them on	83	1 14
Fogs up	68	11
Uncomfortable	65	11
In bad condition	17	3
Other reason	68 65 17 63	1 10

^{1/} Because more than one response is possible, the sum of the responses and percentages may not equal the total. Percentages are calculated by dividing each response by the total number of persons who answered the question.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

Table 12. Eye injuries by eye protection practices and policies, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	All workers		Workers wearing eye protection		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Are you required by your employer to mear eye protection?					
Total	952	100	410	100	
NoYes Don't know	410 491 51	43 52 5	72 324 14	18 79 3	
In your work, do you usually wear eye protection?					
Total	979	100	413	100	
No Yes - most or all of the time Yes - sometimes	342 405 232	35 41 24	32 320 61	8 77 15	
What instructions, if any, were you given concerning eye protection (safety glasses or goggles)?					
Total 1/	996	(1)	386	(1)	
Where and when to wear	490 259 139	54 29 15	278 150 83	72 39 22	
conditionLimitations and Edvantages of equipment	125 137	14 15	63 63 5	16 16	
None	360	40	79	20	
If you were given instructions, how did you receive them?					
Total 1/	531	(1)	296	(1)	
From supervisor, employer or safety supervisor From co-worker In school or other type of classroom	458 81	86 15	268 41	91 14	
instruction From union representative From salesman of protective equipment	93 17 6	18 3 1	40 8 3	14 3 1	
From printed instructions that came with equipment	55 12	10 2	36	12 2	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 12. Eye injuries by eye protection practices and policies, selected States, July-August 1979 - Continued

Item	All workers		Workers wearing eye protection		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
What is your employer's policy on Hearing eye protection?					
Total	959	100	410	100	
Required whan performing certain types of work and/or in certain areas Encouraged but not required No policy	639 147 109 64	67 15 11 7	350 40 8 12	85 10 2 3	
How would you obtain eye protection equipment?					
Total	915	100	401	100	
Available at no cost from employer Must be purchased at your own expense Other	712 189 14	78 21 2	351 44 6	88 11 1	
that actions, if any, did the employer take after your accident to prevent this type of injury from happening again?					
Total 1/	993	(1)	416	(1)	
Investigated accident	254 62 118 135 14 288 27 210 214	26 6 12 14 1 29 3 21 22	123 31 42 48 6 114 16 94 77	30 7 10 12 1 27 4 23	

^{1/} Because more than one response is possible, the sum of the responses and percentages may not equal the total. Percentages are calculated by dividing each response by the total number of persons who answered the question.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

Table 13. Eye injuries by work activity, selected States, July-August 1979

Item	All workers		Workers wearing eye protection		
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Which of the following best describes where you ware when the accident occurred?					
Total	1,046	100	431	100	
Machine shop. Maintenance or service shop	135 101 17 11 18 23 226 103 176 100 20 22 64	13 10 2 1 2 2 22 10 17 10 2 2 6 3	92 37 7 6 6 21 64 49 91 21 1	21 9 2 1 1 5 15 11 21 5 (1)	
Nas this area part of your regular Norksite?					
Total	1,044	100	431	100	
NoYesDon't have regular worksite	63 859 122	82 12	19 388 24	90	
Here you performing a task at the time of the accident which was part of your regular job activity?					
fotal	1,039	100	428	100	
Doing regular task	944 84 6	91 8 1	396 29 1 2	93 7 (1)	
las the object (or chemical) involved in the accident one of the items you were working with or working on?					
otal	1,051	100	435	100	
NoYesDon't know	94 945 12	90 1	29 400 6	92 1	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13. Eye injuries by work activity, selected States, July-August 1979 - Continued

Item	A11 +	orkers	Workers wearing eye protection	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Which of the following best describes the type of object.				
Total	1,041	100	433	100
SharpBlunt. LiquidPowder. Don't know	609 155 199 23 55	59 15 19 2 5	302 43 53 8 27	70 10 12 2 6
Do you feel that any of the following conditions contributed to the accident?				
Total <u>2</u> /	1,007	(2)	416	(2)
Crowded or cluttered worksite	54	5	25	6
Working properly	69	7	27	6
swinging, flying or falling objects	66	7	32	
Barrier guards were not used	831	83	339	81

^{1/} Less than 0.5 parcent.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. See appendix A for occupations and types of injuries included in the survey. Because incomplete questionnaires were used, the total number of responses may vary by question.

 $[\]underline{2}/$ Because more than one response is possible, the sum of the responses and percentages may not equal the total. Percentages are calculated by dividing each response by the total number of persons who answered the question.

Appendix A: Survey Explanatory Note

The survey was designed to identify the hazards associated with eye injuries and to examine the use of protective eye equipment and the extent of protection provided. It focused on accidents in which the eye was either struck by or against an object or injured by contact with powdered or liquid chemicals. For multiple injuries, the case was included in the survey if the more serious injury was to the eye. The survey was confined to workers in selected occupations including shipping, receiving, and stock clerks; craft workers; operatives; and laborers. The scope of the survey extended to all industries, except coal and metallic and nonmetallic mining. Cases were excluded from the survey if the injury resulted in a fatality, or loss of vision in both eyes, or if more than 90 days had elapsed between the time of the injury and the beginning of the survey.

To identify eye injury cases within the scope of the survey, participating State agency staff reviewed employers' reports of injuries required by State workers' compensation laws and mailed questionnaires to injured workers selected for the study. They requested cooperation on a voluntary basis. During the survey period, July-August 1979, 19 participating State agencies reviewed about 188,000 injury reports, of which 2,118 were within the scope of the survey. Fifty percent of the workers selected for study responded to the mail questionnaire.

Although data were aggregated for the 19 States, it should be noted that the workers' compensation cases selected for study reflect differences in State reporting requirements. For example, some participating States require reporting of workers' compensation cases involving medical treatment regardless of lost time, while others limit reporting to cases involving lost time ranging from 1 to 8 days.

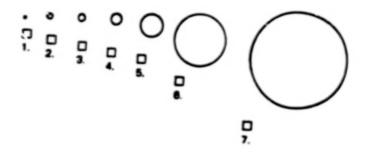
In addition, no attempt was made to estimate all impact injuries to the eye for the occupations studied. Although the participating States provided a broad geographical and industrial mix, they were not selected statistically to represent the country as a whole. Moreover, the survey period was terminated when responses exceeded 750 cases needed for tabulating valid results of the survey.

Characteristics of the injury and the person injured were classified and tabulated for all in-scope respondents based on information furnished by the employer in the injury report prepared for workers' compensation. Questionnair returned by the injured

worker were reviewed for completeness and consistency. Thirty-seven percent of the questionnaires were returned complete. All usable responses of the incomplete questionnaires were also used in the tabulations. No attempt was made to adjust the data for nonresponses.

Numerical values shown in the tables were actual counts while percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

Presented below are the circles shown in the questionnaire which the respondent selected to represent the approximate size of the falling or flying object.



Appendix B: Participating State Agencies

California Department of Industrial Relations Colorado Department of Labor and Employment Delaware Department of Labor Idaho Industrial Commission Indiana Division of Labor Iowa Bureau of Labor Kentucky Department of Labor Maryland Department of Licensing and Regulation Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries Montana Department of Labor and Industry Nebraska Workmen's Compensation Court Ohio Industrial Commission Oregon Workers' Compensation Department Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Tennessee Department of Labor Utah Industrial Commission Washington Department of Labor and Industries Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations Wyoming Department of Labor and Statistics

Appendix C: Survey Questionnaire

U.S. Department of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics Work Injury Report

Accidents Involving Eye and Face Injuries.

The information collected on this form by the Bureau of Labor Stellation and the State Agent in confidence and will be seal on confidence and will be used for manufactured company.

This report is authorized by law 29 U.S.C. 2. Your reductory cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprchancine.

Form Approved O.M.B. No. 445-77037

	will be used for statistical purposes only. According a	and simely.	
-	State Care Nun Zier	Date of Accident	Office Use
Only	Answer A through I A. How did the accident occur? (Chack ane.)	G. Indicate what type of eye or face protection, if any, you were wearing	Onity
36	Phyling or falling object struck you Struck non-moving object Upual or chemical injuries you Upual or chemical injuries you Upual or chemical injuries you	when the accident occurrent. (Diack all that apply J 11. Cup type 32. Soft side 33. Westing pages with flat- figure pages.) 12. Soft side pages.	41 41 61
37	of glass, battery acid, etc.) C. Which of the following best describes the type of object? (Check one.) 1. Sharp 2. Blunt 3. Liquid 4. Powder 5. Don't know	9. Not wearing any eye or face protection	_ 47 _ 48 _ 49 _ 50 _ 51
»_	D. Was the object for chemical) part of the dems you were working with or working un? 1	H. If you were not wearing glasses or grapies inumber 1 to 6 above), in- dicase why (Check all than apply.) 1. None available at worksite 2. Did not think they were handed 3. Not required 4. Not required 5. Can't see well with them on 6. Fogs up 7. Uncomfortable 8. In the condition 9. Other reason (Describe)	63 63 54 56 66 67 58 59 60
•-	B. Larger (Describe size) 6 Don't know 7 D. How would you describe the speed of the object? (Describe anal) 1. High speed for example, much fester than object thrown by person 2. Low speed for example, close to or slower than speed of object thrown by person 3. Don't know	1. If you were not wearing full face protection (number 7 or 8 above), indicate any (Dhack all share apply.) 1. None excludes at worksite 2. Did not think they were needed 3. Not required 4. Not normally used or practical in my type of work 5. On it see well with them on 6. Pogs up 7. Uncomfortable 8. In bad condition 9. Other reason (Describe)	61 63 64 66 67 69
e1_	c. What was the object's weight of guarter (1/5 oz.) 2. Listone than the weight of guarter (1/5 oz.) 3. 1 to 4 ounces 4. 4 ounces to 1 pound 5. 1 to 4 pounds 6. 4 to 8 pounds 7. 8 to 15 pounds 8. 15 pounds or more 9. Don't know	B. IF YOU WERE NOT MEARING GLASSES, GOGGLES OR FACE PROTECTION, SKIP THIS SECTION AND GO TO SECTION SHI ON REVERSE SIDE. IF YOU MERE MEARING GLASSES, GOGGLES OR FACE PROTECTION, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING OUESTIONES, (Note: If you were wasting more than one, describe the largest or outstmast equipment.) A. Indicate why your eye or face protection did not prevent injury. ### Character why your eye or face protection did not prevent injury. #### Chipset for chemicall event enound or under protection. 2. Object or forement when any or was not in place the protection had been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the place or face protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the place or face protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place the protection find been lifted up or was not in place.	— 70 — 71 — 72 — 73 — 74 — 76 — 77 — 77
		B. Do you feel another type of eye or face protection would have prevented or reduced your myury? 1. No 2. Yee 3. Den't know (Exprisen): C. What effect do you feel your eye or face protection field on your myury? (Ontack eres.) 1. Reduced injury 3. No effect 2. Contributed to injury 4. Den't know (Exprisen): D. If you were watering pleases a. What kind were they? 1. Industrial safety pleases 2. Require pleases D. Id the pleases have any special marking on the tens such as many factoring treatmark, etc.? 1. No 2. Yes 3. Den't know CONTINUE WITH SECTION III ON ARVERSE SADE	_**

Office							For
Um	III.Complute A tiorough E	TV	Car	mpiene A	throw	igh F for both eye protection (solumn a) and face	Office
Omity	A. Which of the following best describes where you were often the		pro	Only			
	accident occurred? (Chack one.)	A.				. If any, were you given concerning eye protection	Comp
83 84	1. Machine shop					juggles) or face protection (face shields)?	
83 84	2. Maintenance or service shop			ack all t		ply.)	
	Carpentry or pattern shop Stockroom or tool crib naam		Eye		b Face		1
	5. D Loading, unloading flock			tection		ection	
	6. D Foundry shop	1	9			Milhous and character	
	7. Construction site		2	Ö	ŏ	Where and when to wear What tick to wear	101-102
	Assembly line or shop.		3	ō	0	How acuigment should fit	183-194
	9. Other production area: (Describe)	1	4			How to inspect and maintain in good condition	105-106
	т Польти	1	5			Limitations and advantages of equipment	109-110
	10. Ourdoors, fother than construction site! 11. Warehouse		6			Other (Describe)	111-112
	12. Private home, office or rescinatial building	1		-	-		
	13. Motor wehicle repair shop		7			None	113-114
	14. Other (Describe)	8	Mon	e mid en	u neme	inc this instruction? (Check all that sixty)	1
		1	Eye		Face		
				tection	Prot	ection	
es	Was this area part of your regular worksite? No		8.			From supervisor, employer or salety supervisor	118-116
	2. D Yes	1	2			From co-worker	117-118
	3 Don't have regular worksite		3			In school or other type of classroom instruction	119-120
			4			From union representative	121-122
	C. Were you performing a task at the time of the accident which	1	6			Frohi salesman of protective equipment	123 124
	was part of your regular job activity? (Chack one.)	1		_	-	From printed instructions that came with equipment	125-126
	Doing regular task Doing regular task		7			Other (Describe)	127-128
	D Not doing regular ten. Going to or from worksite.						
	4. Not working (funch break, rist break, etc.)						
		C.				by your employer to wear eye or face protection?	1
	D. Do you feel that any of the following conditions contributed to		Eye	tection	Face	ection	
	the accident? (Chack all that apply.)	1					
67 —	Crowded or cluttered works/se		1			No	129-130
# _	Work tools in bad condition or not working properly Discounting guards to protect against swinging, flying or		3			Yes Don't know	
	falling objects	1			_	Light Engag	
90	4. Barrier guards were not used	D	in a	row two	k. do :	you usually wear eye or face protection?	
91	5. None of the above		Eye		Face		1
		1	Pre	tection	Prot	ection	
	E. What actions, if any, did the employer take after your accident		8			No	131-132
	to prevent this type of injury from happening again? (Check all that apply.)	1	2			Yes-most or all of the time	
92	Investigated accident		3			Yes sometimes	
93	2. Aftered equipment or eliminated hazard	1.	-20				
94	3. Required use of eye or face protection	€.	White	et is you	engi	loyer's policy on wearing eye or face protection?	
95	Provided eye or face protection	1	Eye		Face		
94	Conducted training			tection		action	
97 —	Warned other employees about the hazard		1			Required when performing certain types of	133 134
· —	7. Dither action (Describe)	1		_		work	
99	8 D Employer took no action	1	2			Required in certain ereas	
100	9 Don't know	1	3			Encouraged but not required	1
		1	4	D		No policy	1
		1	5			Don't know	1
		F	Mone	blume e	wou ni	btain eye or face protection equipment?	i
			- 1924		,000	STATE OF SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO SECULO	1
			Eye		Face		1
		1	Prot	tection	Prote	ection	1
			1			Available at no cost from employer	136-136
		1				Must be purchased at your own expense	
			3			Other (Describe)	1
		1					
		_					-
	V. Describe in your own words how the actident happened.						1
							137
							130
							130
							140
							141
							142
							143
							144
							146
							146
						6	1
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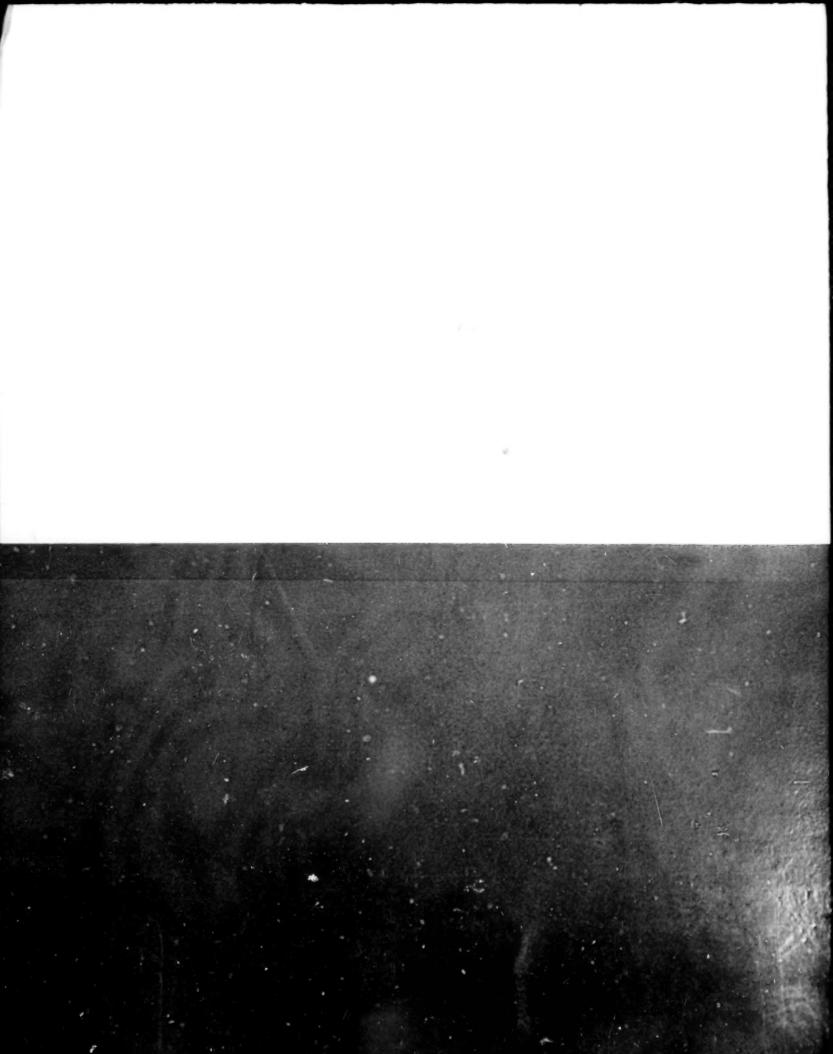
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